"Tebiwa" Vol. I, No I

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Idaho State College

MUSEUM NOTES AND NEWS

October 1957

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It is the plan of the museum staff to put out these notes and news of museum activities during the academic year of Idaho State College. The museum is currently open Monday through Friday from 2 to 5 p.m. Classes from local public schools are welcome, and mornings are reserved, by appointment, for such visits. Scouting and other youth groups may make appointments for evening visits. The museum closes on campus holidays.

The museum opened November 18, 1956, after its reorganization under the supervision of Dr. Sven Liljeblad. It is now situated in the basement of the new library building, with an excellent set of permanent exhibits showing the geological and cultural history of Idaho. These exhibits are contemporary in style, use of color, and in their placement for easy viewing. During the past summer, three new geological exhibits were designed and installed under the supervision of Mrs. Mary Strawn, Museum Secretary, with the assistance of Professor Andrei Isotoff. A temporary exhibit of English double rifles, loaned by Mr. A. V. Pulling, Assistant Professor of Biology, is situated in cases along the south wall. The museum staff plan flexible, changing exhibits for this area during the coming school year. Some of these exhibits will make use of American Indian ethnographic material in our collections.

We have recently received ten photographic negatives of Fort Hall Indians, taken shortly after the turn of the century, from Mrs. Lucille Uhland. The plates are of excellent quality, and the figures are placed

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against plain backgrounds so that nothing detracts from the individual and his features. The negatives are good source material on Indian garments of the early 20th century, and show clearly the influence of peoples of the northern Plains. Two sets of 8 x 10 glossy prints have been made up and will be given to the Public Library of Pocatello. The identification of some of the individuals has been made possible by Dr. Sven Liljeblad, who is conducting linguistic research at Fort Hall.

Tiers of drawers have been ordered and are under construction so that the museum collections can be organized on a study basis. This means that related materials are being grouped in easily accessible fashion, so that they may be removed to nearby tables for examination and comparison. A drafting table and necessary accessories have been ordered for the museum laboratory. This will facilitate preparation of some exhibit materials as well as reports of museum projects.

An archaeological survey system has been established for recording archaeological sites in Idaho, a necessary first step in making an appraisal of archaeological resources in the State. A report on this system is in preparation and recording forms are in press. The report will be available for general distribution later this autumn. As an adjunct to the survey system, the museum has acquired a set of United States Geological Survey quadrangle sheets for Idaho, and we have been given a large scale map of Idaho by Professor Andrei Isotoff of the Department of Geology. Reconnaissance is already under way in this region. Miss Marie Hopkins, Assistant Professor of Zoology, is continuing her research on Pleistocene mammals in Idaho. She is being assisted by Mr. David Fortsch, who is

serving as preparator in vertebrate paleontology under Miss Hopkins' supervision.

The library of the museum is growing steadily through the courtesy of professional anthropologists and museum people, and through the interest of museum friends. Important serial publications are now being sent to the museum, reprints of papers pertaining to the culture history of the region have been received, data on museum techniques and problems have come in, and one or two books on early history have been presented. Some of the publications are as follows:

University of Utah Publications in Anthropology - a complete set, and the museum has been placed on the mailing list.

Anthropology in British Columbia - an annual journal, plus occasional papers in anthropology of the Provincial Museum, Victoria, B. C.

Viking Fund Publications - monographs of the Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research.

University of Washington Publications in Anthropology - an incomplete set, through the courtesy of Dr. Erna Gunther.

Reprints pertaining to the Northwest written by Dr. Erna Gunther, Director of the Washington State Museum, given by her.

Indian Peoples of Idaho - monograph presented to the museum by the author, Dr. Sven Liljeblad.

Early Man in the Eden Valley, by John H. Moss - a monograph of the University of Pennsylvania Museum presented by Dr. Edson Fichter, Associate Professor of Zoology.

Pioneer Voices, by Thomas Bond - presented to the museum by Mr. A. V. Pulling, Assistant Professor of Biology.

River Basin Surveys, Smithsonian Institution - archaeological reconnaissance reports pertaining to the Northwest.

This library is intended as a source of information for scholars work-

ing in the area and will be available for their use.

Recent professional visitors have included Dr. Reid MacDonald, a vertebrate paleontologist from South Dakota, and Mr. Donald Tuohy, archaeologist for the Northwest Pipeline Co., who has been working in northern Idaho and northeastern Washington this past summer. Dr. Warren Caldwell, assistant director of the Missouri River Basin Survey, of the Smithsonian Institution, was also here briefly.

Museum Staff:

Earl H. Swanson, Ph.D. - Director of the Museum

Mrs. Mary Strawn, M.A. - Museum Secretary

Sven Liljeblad, Ph.D. - Field Representative

Miss Marie Hopkins, M.A. - Vertebrate Paleontologist

David Fortsch - Preparator in Paleontology